

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated November 4, 2004. Claims 1-11 remain pending in this application. Claims 1 and 11 are the independent claims. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In response to the Office Action's objection to the drawings, Applicants respectfully request that substitute Figs. 2A, 2B, 2C, and 2D be entered. Two (2) copies of substitute Figs. 2A-2D are herewith included. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objections to the drawings.

In response to the objection to the specification for failing to include headings, Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Office Action's suggestion, however respectfully decline to add the headings as they are not required in accordance with MPEP §608.01(a). In addition, Applicants respectfully believe the amendments to the specification and abstract adequately respond to the Office Action's other specification and abstract objections and respectfully request their withdrawal.

In response to the Office Action's objection to Claims 3-11, Applicants respectfully believe the amendments to Claims 3, 5, 9, 10, and 11 render the objection moot and respectfully request its withdrawal.

On the merits, the Office Action rejected Claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicants respectfully believe the amendment to Claim 7 adequately responds to the § 112 rejection. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the § 112, second paragraph rejection of Claim 7.

The Office Action also rejected Claims 1 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Toyoda et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,630,953; hereinafter "Toyoda"). The Office Action also rejected Claims 2-3 and 5-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Toyoda in view of Callahan (U.S. Patent No. 6,380,985; hereinafter "Callahan"). The Office Action also rejected Claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Toyoda in view of Callahan and Ohtsuka (U.S. Patent No. 6,154,258; hereinafter "Ohtsuka"). The Office Action also rejected Claims 8-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Toyoda in view of Callahan and Thompson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,489,998; hereinafter "Thompson"). The Office Action also rejected Claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Toyoda in view of Thompson and Van Rooy et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,657,659; hereinafter "Van Rooy").

Applicants respectfully traverse the Office Action's rejections for at least the following reasons:

Toyoda fails to recite or suggest a light modulation removal means that processes images during a smallest common product of a camera acquisition and a rectified-mains period. Rather, Toyoda only recites a flicker correcting system which outputs signal of a camera at a period which equals the least common multiple of 16.6 to 10 ms. (See, e.g., Col. 1, lines 15-26). Thus Toyoda fails to recite or suggest all the limitations of Applicants' Claim 1. Applicants respectfully traverse the § 102(e) rejection over Toyoda for at least this reason.

Claim 11 recites a method substantially corresponding to the Camera of Claim 1 and Applicants believe it to be patentable for at least the same reasons.

Claims 2-10 depend from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are believed patentable for at least the same reasons. In addition, Applicants respectfully believe Claims 2-10 to be independently patentable and request separate consideration of each claim. Further, Applicants respectfully believe the § 103 rejections of Claims 2-9 and 11 to be moot in light of the above amendments and remarks and request their withdrawal.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached by telephone at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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